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Chinese communes

The Chinese Communists may be making angry noises at the Americans over Formosa, but it is the Russians they are really competing with—over communism. China's peasant communes, already described as "the basic units of Communist society," are to become "the property of the whole people" in three to six years. That is when they will be truly Communist, and certainly more so than the Soviet collective "farms," which are to remain "communal" rather than national property in the foreseeable future. The terminological and real differences may appear esoteric to all but the theoreticians and practicians of communism. To them, the Chinese claims must signify the discovery of a completely new "road to communism," as far to the Left from the Russian model as Yugoslavia's is to the Right. But although the Russians have been comparatively reticent on the ideological and practical implications of the communes, they are not likely to proclaim Mao a deviationist in the same way as they did with Tito, if only because they cannot afford to do so for reasons of power politics. In the meantime, the Chinese will be allowed to develop their grand design for a Communist society. Already in some communes the peasants are said to be receiving part of their remuneration [illegible] ing to need "in [illegible] and consumer services [illegible] needs remains a fraction [illegible]

those wa[illegible] societies [illegible] "communism," [illegible] would appear more [illegible] China than in [illegible] Mao's theor[illegible] stars—commu[illegible] without indus[illegible] Chinese bluepr[illegible] radically from [illegible] The Chinese do [illegible] for the constru[illegible] sufficient number of la[illegible] plans which would [illegible] most economically eff[illegible] industrialisation [illegible] They are buil[illegible] if these as they [illegible] and they promo[illegible] of the wheel[illegible] tion, by covering [illegible] with small-scale plan[illegible] from local resou[illegible] liberation of women [illegible] household chores through [illegible] communal mess[illegible] work services [illegible] kindergartens [illegible] provide more [illegible] ing realisation [illegible] method [illegible] Chinese way [illegible] under which [illegible] tions in the [illegible] labour [illegible] the peasants [illegible] into the mounta[illegible] shovels, and [illegible]

steel converters built by peasants. Some 600,000 of these said to have been built in the few months, and they are to pro[illegible] 30 per cent of China's 10,700,000 of steel this year, thus doubling year's national output. In all industries small-scale methods used to the full to achieve the "leap forward" (the engineering industry method is described by Chinese as "ants gnawing a bone"), but the basis for it all is combination of agricultural [illegible] labour in the commu[illegible] being pr[illegible] without the urban [illegible] was found necessary— costly—during the Russian Western industrial revolutions. [illegible] industrial[illegible] communism, se[illegible] In terms economic efficiency, when compared with Western methods industrialisation may app[illegible] But the und[illegible] developed countries with surp[illegible] [illegible]

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